Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-70. (Cancelled)

71. (Currently Amended)   A system, comprising:

an authentication server disposed on a network;

a switch coupled to the network and communicatively coupled to the authentication server via the network; and

an access point communicatively coupled to the switch;

wherein the switch is configured to be the authenticator for the access point and is configured to authenticate the access point with the authentication server and establish a secure communication session with the switch access point;

wherein the access point is configured to be the authenticator for a wireless client, the access point communicates with the authentication server using the secure communication session established with the switch;

wherein the access point is configured to send a message to the switch comprising data representative of an authenticated the wireless client responsive to the authenticated wireless client successfully authenticating the wireless client with the authentication server; and

wherein the access point is configured to forward all communications received from the authenticated wireless client to the switch responsive to the authenticated wireless client successfully authenticating with the authentication server.

72. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 71, the switch comprises a table of authorized users, wherein the switch updates the table of authorized users with the medium access control address of the authenticated wireless client.

73. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 71, the switch comprises a table of authorized users, wherein the switch updates the table of authorized users with the medium access control list, the quality of service parameters and the access control list of the authenticated wireless client.

74. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 71, wherein a session key is generated for subsequent communications between the authenticated wireless client and the access point responsive to the authenticated wireless client successfully authenticating with the authentication server.

75. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 71, further comprising the authentication server is responsive to establish a message authentication check key for the secure communication session between the switch and the access point.

76. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 75, wherein the a message authentication check key uniquely identifies the access point to the switch.

77. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 75, further comprising:

the access point is configured to send the data representative of the authenticated wireless client signed with the message authentication check key; and

the switch is responsive to receiving the data representative of the authenticated wireless client to verify the message authentication check key.

78. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 77, further comprising:

the switch is configured to maintain a database containing authorized media access control addresses; and

the switch is configured to verify the message with the data representative of the authenticated wireless client was sent by the access point by verifying the media access control address of the access point.

79. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 78, further comprising:

the data representative of the authenticated wireless client comprises a media access control address for the authenticated wireless client;

the switch is responsive to receiving the data representative of the authenticated wireless client to store the media access control address for the authenticated wireless client in the database; and

the switch is responsive to receiving packets from the authenticated wireless client forwarded by the access point to verify the media access control address of the packets from the authenticated wireless client with the database.

80. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 71, wherein the secure communication session is established between the switch and the access point prior to authenticating the authenticated wireless client.

81. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 71, further comprising:

the switch maintains a database of authenticated supplicants; and

the switch stores the media access control of the access point in the database responsive to the access point successfully authenticating with the authentication server.

82. (Currently Amended)   A system, comprising:

an authentication server disposed on a network;

a first authenticator communicatively coupled to the authentication server via the network; and

a ~~first supplicant~~second authenticator communicatively coupled to the first authenticator;

wherein the first authenticator is an authenticator for the ~~supplicant~~second authenticator and is configured to authenticate the second authenticator with the authentication server and establish a secure communication session with the ~~first~~second authenticator;

wherein the ~~first~~ second authenticator ~~supplicant~~ is configured to function as an authenticator for a ~~second~~ supplicant communicatively coupled to the ~~first supplicant~~second

authenticator, the second authenticator communicating with the authentication server through the secure communication session with the first authenticator;

wherein the ~~first supplicant~~second authenticator is configured to send a message with data representative of the ~~second~~ supplicant to the first authenticator responsive to the ~~second~~ supplicant successfully authenticating with the authentication server; and

wherein the ~~first supplicant~~second authenticator is configured to forward all communications received from the ~~second~~ supplicant to the first authenticator responsive to the ~~second~~ supplicant successfully authenticating with the authentication server.

83. (Currently Amended)   The system according to claim 82, the first authenticator comprises a table of authorized users, wherein the first authenticator updates the table of authorized users with the medium access control address of the ~~first supplicant~~second authenticator.

84. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 83, further comprising the first authenticator updates the table of authorized users with an access control list and quality of service parameter for the second supplicant.

85. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 82, wherein a session key is generated for subsequent communications between the ~~second~~ supplicant and the ~~first supplicant~~second authenticator responsive to the authenticated wireless client successfully authenticating with the authentication server.

86. (Currently Amended)   The system according to claim 85, further comprising the authentication server is responsive to establish a message authentication check key for the secure communication session between the first authenticator and the ~~first supplicant~~second authenticator.

87. (Currently Amended)   The system according to claim 86, further comprising the ~~first supplicant~~second authenticator is configured to send the data representative of the ~~second~~ supplicant signed with the message authentication check key.

88. (Currently Amended)   The system according to claim 87, further comprising:

the ~~first supplicant~~second authenticator is configured to maintain a database containing authorized media access control addresses; and

the first ~~supplicant~~authenticator is configured to verify the message with the data representative of the ~~second~~ supplicant was sent by the ~~first supplicant~~second authenticator by verifying the media access control address of the ~~access point~~second authenticator.

89. (Currently Amended)   The system according to claim 88, further comprising:

the data representative of the ~~second~~ supplicant comprises a media access control address for the ~~second~~ supplicant;

the first ~~supplicant~~suthenticator is responsive to receiving the data representative of the ~~second~~ supplicant to store the media access control address for the ~~second~~ supplicant in the database; and

the first authenticator is responsive to receiving packets from the ~~second~~ supplicant forwarded by the ~~first supplicant~~second authenticator to verify the media access control address of the packets from the second supplicant with the database.

90. (Currently Amended)   A method, comprising:

authenticating ~~a first~~ with an authentication server through a[[n]] first authenticator;

establishing a secure communication session with the first authenticator responsive to a successful authentication with the authentication server;

receiving an authentication request from a ~~second~~ supplicant;

authenticating ~~forwarding the authentication request from~~ the ~~second~~ supplicant ~~to~~with the authentication server via the ~~authenticator~~secure communication session;

receiving a response from the authentication server via the ~~authenticator~~secure communication session indicating a successful authentication of the ~~second~~ supplicant;

sending data representative of the ~~second~~ supplicant to the first authenticator; and

forwarding all communications received from the ~~second~~ supplicant to the first authenticator responsive to receiving [[a]]the response from the authentication server via the

~~authenticator~~ secure communication sessoin indicating a successful authentication of the second supplicant.

91. (Currently Amended)   The method according to claim 90, further comprising generating a session key for subsequent communications ~~between~~ with the ~~first supplicant and the second~~ supplicant responsive to the ~~second~~ supplicant successfully authenticating with the authentication server.

92. (Currently Amended)   The method according to claim 91, further comprising establishing a message authentication check key for the secure communication session ~~between~~ with the first authenticator ~~and the first supplicant~~.

93. (Currently Amended)   The method according to claim 92, further comprising:
~~the first supplicant is configured to~~ send**ing** the data representative of the ~~second~~ supplicant to the first authenticator signed with the message authentication check key.

Claims 94 - 100 (Canceled)

101. (New)   A system according to claim 71, wherein the authentication server is configured to send data representative of a session key for the wireless client to the access point responsive to the wireless client successfully authenticating.